

CHARGE
TO THE
PASTOR.

DELIVERED TO THE
REV. JOEL M. SEYMOUR,
AT HIS INSTALLATION OVER THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.
-IN-
BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS,
OCTOBER 7TH, 1873.

AND ALSO TO
Rev. CHARLES R. SEYMOUR.
AT HIS INSTALLATION OVER THE
NORTH CHURCH,
-IN-
NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS,
OCTOBER 8TH, 1874.

-BY-
REV. E. E. LAMB,
THEIR FORMER PASTOR.

RAVENNA, OHIO :
"PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT" PRINT,
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MY BROTHER :

In the Providence of God, I was present when, passing through the throes of conversion, you became a child of God. I heard your words of manly determination, when with a moral fortitude born of the Holy Ghost, you stood up in the midst of your associates, and boldly avouched the Lord to be your God. I was present also, when with the same holy courage, you enlisted in the ranks of the army of Christ, and gave your service to His glorious cause. And with almost a paternal solicitude I have watched your progress through College and Seminary, until to-day you stand in the inner court of the grand temple of life, to consecrate yourself anew to the work of Christ. In this hour of your spiritual victory and joy, looking upward to Him whose high commission you bear, and outward upon the field of your expectant toil, all white for your holiest endeavor, I have but one single charge to give you. One only, because it is first of all, and comprehends all. My brother, I charge you to be filled with Christ. Among this dear people, with the sentiments of that grandest Apostle, determine to know nothing but Jesus Christ. As you walk these streets truly say, "I live, nevertheless Christ liveth in me." As you stand in this sacred place with all boldness say to the people, "In the cross of Christ I glory." CHRIST! my brother Daily, hourly meditate upon Him. Begin every morning with Him, and let the evening dews find you where the morning glories left you. Study to know

Christ—feed upon Him, breathe His spirit, digest His words, and be completely absorbed in Him. Be sure before you undertake anything, that you are in Christ. Never open a book, nor speak a word, nor perform a duty, until you are sure that you are in Christ. Abide in Christ, and make His spirit and example your whole armor of life. I charge you to be completely filled with Christ, because then you will be perfectly equipped for your work. You will be ready to preach the truth. To hold the minds of your people to God's truth and to quicken their emotions with its heavenly beauty, you need a critical and thorough investigation of all phases of thought. You must not be deaf to the demands of Reason, nor blind to the ceaseless glories of Nature. God's grand volume of thought is open before you, and as a priest of God you are to seek to know the mind of the Infinite Thinker. In this mighty work, where so many great minds have stumbled and fallen, you will be perfectly safe so long as Christ is with you. You will not discover in the rocks, records older than Genesis, nor anything in Science which militates against the Bible. Having no self-interest nor ambition to gratify, you will truly behold God's wonderful Works, fathom His heart of love, and bathe in Eternal beauty. And Christ will not only hold you steadily and safely, but through Him you will get the fullness of truth. Words are the signs of ideas, or, they are embodied thoughts. Christ was called "*The Word*," because He embodied God's thought, for in Him the heart of God found full utterance, and the greater part of God's thoughts are unknown speech until they are translated in the "Word Christ." Hence, if your heart glow with love to Christ, you will have the key to all these mysteries—"for he that loveth knoweth

God." Thus in Christ your mind will find rest and progress —you will conquer the citadels of thought by the cross—and since in all your boasted knowledge you will not distance Jesus, nor forget the Manger, you will come before your people enriched with all the fullness of God. The spirit of Jesus, therefore, will make you the right kind of a student—inspiring you with the loftiest thoughts, and engaging all your meditative powers.

I charge you to be filled with Christ, because, then you will be ready to do pastoral work. Filled with His wondrous grace, your whole soul will be so charged with the magnetism of love that your pastoral labors will be your supreme joy. Like Christ, you will know all your people by their *names*. You will be so interested in them, and so absorbed in their welfare, that the humblest, weakest one will find a large place in your affections. In the spirit of Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me," you will ardently seek an acquaintance with the children. You will be their pastor and friend, and so magnetize them with your love, and cheerfulness, that all fear will be removed, and you will thus gain their hearts, and lay them as trophies in the arms of the Good Shepherd. No man with the spirit of Christ will forget the children. Like him also you will constantly be found at the couch of suffering, and where the aged and the infirm drag out the weary hours in silence. It will be the glory of your life that you be found first of all where mothers' tears are falling over their smitten offspring. Where sisters are disconsolate and children are made orphans! Let it be said of you here, as it was of your Master, "He has come to heal the broken-hearted!"

My brother, wear out the threshold of those homes where hearts are sitting in the chariot of pain. With the spirit of Christ, you will be a true pastor. In the breadth of your great affection you will be careful of all the particulars of your work and find a delight in them all, so that every soul in your parish will feel the warmth of your sympathy and love. No man in the grandeur of Christ's spirit will ignore the minutia of his work.

I charge you to be filled with Christ, because, then you will be abundantly prepared for all the trials and vicissitudes of your work. In Him your heart will be sanctified, so that you will not chafe under your appointed work. You will not make this church a stepping stone to gratify unholy ambition after some large place, but like your Lord, you will be contented and happy in your appointed sphere, and for the joy set before you, you will endure every cross.

You will not create difficulties, nor magnify them, for His spirit will soften them, and enable you to bear them.

You will have tears, but Christ will transmute them into radiant pearls of joy. Sorrows will arise, but in the wonderful chemistries of Divine grace, they will be changed into supreme delights.

But time fails me to speak of all that Christ will do for you.

In your chosen labors you will have nights, but He will give you glorious mornings; you will have frowning storms, but He will span them with rainbows; you will have thorns, but the blessed Husbandman will plant flowers between. Through all the drudgery and suffering of your work He will so dignify it, that you would not exchange this pulpit for im-

perial grandeur.

Finally, I charge you to live in Christ, because then you will have glorious success. Souls are won by Christ. After all *He* is the wisdom of God and the power of God unto salvation. In all you do, you cannot overestimate Him, nor make too much of Him. In Him you cannot toil in vain. "Sure will the harvest be."

Sow, dear brother, in Christ-like tears, and you shall reap in Christ-like joy. Sow lovingly, beautifully, grandly in the spirit of the living Christ, and the heaven of the Redeemer's glory shall be all the richer for your life. Then when the Master has nothing more for you to do on the earth, at His own sweet word "Come," you will enter into the opening glory.

